1		2	3
8.	Tamil Nadu	Thirunelveli, Coimbatore, Madurai, Chengelpet, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Theni, Erode, Dindigul	41
9.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh, Sikar, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur	7
10.	Uttaranchal	Narendranagar	1
11.	West Bengal	South 24 Paraganas	1
12.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nicobar	1
13.	Lakshadweep	Kavarathi	8
	TOTAL		216

India-Japan agreement for development of renewable energy sources

676. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Japan have entered into an agreement for development of renewable energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the first meeting of the working group under the above agreement was held in the last week of June, 2007; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on New and Renewable Energy has been established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue to coordinate cooperation activities in new and renewable energy.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on the 28th June, 2007 at New Delhi wherein it was decided that both sides will explore ways and means to further cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy.

Popularizing the non-conventional energy sources

677. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new and renewable energy sources are less popular than the conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the reactions therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the use of non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) New and renewable energy has been assuming increasing significance in recent times with the growing concern for the country's energy security and environment. Bulk of the energy needs of the common man come from renewable energy, mainly agro and forest residues as well as animal wastes. Already, over 40 lakh family size biogas plants, about 14 lakh solar photovoltaic systems for lighting and other

applications and solar thermal systems covering 20 lakh square meters collector area have been installed. Beside, about 11,000 MW power from renewables has been added to the electricity grids.

(c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is supporting deployment of renewable energy systems by providing fiscal and financial support to reduce the capital costs of these systems.

Concessions for encouraging use of non-conventional energy sources

678. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether suitable concessions are proposed to encourage the use of non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Government has been providing several concessions in the form of fiscal and financial incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy sources. These include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/ concessional excise and customs duties. Further, as applicable to all new infrastructure projects, profits earned from sale of renewable power are exempt from Income Tax for any 10 years out of the first 15 years of project's operation. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Installation of solar light systems

679. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiary villages and hamlets where solar light systems are installed, State-wise;

(b) how many such villages/hamlets have been covered in tribal and economically backward regions of Maharashtra;

(c) the criteria fixed for establishing such solar light system;

(d) the feedback about meeting the envisaged objectives; and

(e) whether it is provided gratis or village panchayats, etc. have to bear some initial or working expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A programme for providing financial support for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages in various States, where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not taken up under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna, is being implemented by the Ministry. Such villages are provided basic facilities for lighting/electricity through various renewable energy sources including solar energy. State-wise details of villages and hamlets taken up under the programme through solar